

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A self-service machine, comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a door mounted to the housing for gaining access to the inside of the housing;
 - a processor; and
 - a tamper detection mechanism, wherein the tamper detection mechanism includes:
 - a tamper detection controller;
 - an emitter; and
 - a sensor,wherein one of the emitter and sensor is mounted to the housing and one of the emitter and sensor is mounted to the door; and
 - wherein the tamper detection controller drives the emitter with a signal and monitors the sensor to determine if it generated an inverted version of the signal.
2. The self-service machine according to claim 1, wherein the tamper detection controller is mounted physically separate from the processor.
3. The self-service machine according to claim 1, wherein the emitter is mounted to a portion of a door interlock mechanism.
4. The self-service machine according to claim 1, wherein the sensor is mounted to a portion of a door interlock mechanism.
5. The self-service machine according to claim 1, wherein the sensor and emitter operate to generate an inverted signal and wherein the tamper detection controller generates an alarm if the signal received from the sensor is not inverted.

6. The self-service machine according to claim 1, wherein the tamper detection mechanism further includes a relay.

7. A gaming machine, comprising:

- a housing;

- a door mounted to the housing for gaining access to the inside of the housing;

- a gaming mechanism;

- a door interlock mechanism connected to the housing and the door, wherein the door interlock mechanism includes means, connected to the door interlock mechanism, for generating an alarm when the door is open; and

- a tamper detection mechanism, wherein the tamper detection mechanism includes:

- a tamper detection controller;

- an emitter; and

- a sensor,

- wherein one of the emitter and sensor is mounted to the housing and one of the emitter and sensor is mounted to the door; and

- wherein the tamper detection controller drives the emitter with a signal, monitors the sensor for a version of the signal and generates an alarm if the version of the signal is not received as expected.

8. The gaming machine according to claim 7, wherein the emitter is mounted to a portion of the door interlock mechanism.

9. The gaming machine according to claim 7, wherein the sensor is mounted to a portion of the door interlock mechanism.

10. The gaming machine according to claim 7, wherein the sensor and emitter operate to generate an inverted signal and wherein the tamper detection controller generates an alarm if the signal received from the sensor is not inverted.
11. The gaming machine according to claim 7, wherein the tamper detection controller is mounted physically separate from the gaming mechanism.
12. The self-service machine according to claim 7, wherein the tamper detection mechanism further includes a relay.
13. A method of detecting tampering with objects within the housing of a gaming machine, the method comprising:
 mounting one of an emitter and a sensor to the housing and one of the emitter and the sensor to the object, wherein mounting includes positioning the emitter and sensor such that radiation generated by the emitter falls on the sensor when the object is in a particular position and to a lesser extent otherwise;
 generating a signal;
 driving the emitter with the signal;
 modifying the signal;
 monitoring the sensor for the modified version of the signal; and
 generating an alarm if the modified version of the signal is not detected.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein installing a tamper detection controller further includes running an existing gaming machine signal through the tamper detection controller.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises generating an alarm if the existing gaming machine signal is not detected.
16. The method of claim 13, wherein modifying includes inverting the signal.

17. A method of retrofitting a gaming machine in order to detect tampering with objects within the housing of the gaming machine, the method comprising:

mounting one of an emitter and a sensor to the housing and one of the emitter and the sensor to the object, wherein mounting includes positioning the emitter and sensor such that radiation generated by the emitter falls on the sensor when the object is in a particular position and to a lesser extent otherwise;

installing a tamper detection controller, wherein installing includes connecting the tamper detection controller to the emitter and the sensor;

generating a signal at the tamper detection controller and driving the emitter with the signal;

monitoring the sensor for an inverted version of the signal; and

generating an alarm if the modified version of the signal is not detected.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein installing a tamper detection controller further includes running an existing gaming machine signal through the tamper detection controller.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the method further comprises generating an alarm if the existing gaming machine signal is not detected.

20. A kit for retrofitting a self-service machine in order to detect tampering with objects within the housing of the self-service machine, the kit comprising:

a tamper detection controller, wherein the tamper detection controller includes means for installing the controller within the housing;

an emitter, wherein the emitter generates radiation in response to a driving signal; and

a sensor capable of generating a signal as a function of radiation falling on the sensor;

wherein the emitter and the sensor include means for positioning the emitter and sensor within the housing such that radiation generated by the emitter falls on the sensor when the object is in a particular position and to a lesser extent otherwise; and

wherein the tamper detection controller, when installed in the gaming machine, generates a signal, drives the emitter with the signal, monitors the sensor for an inverted version of the signal and generates an alarm if the inverted version of the signal is not detected.

21. The kit according to claim 20, wherein the positioning means includes a light emitting diode (LED) used to align the emitter and sensor.

22. The kit according to claim 21, wherein the LED is lit when the emitter and sensor are not aligned properly.

23. The kit according to claim 19, wherein the object is a peripheral.

24. The kit according to claim 19, wherein the peripheral is a hopper.

25. The kit according to claim 19, wherein the object is a door.

26. A tamper detection system for increasing detection of tampering of an object associated with a self-service machine having a housing, the system comprising:

means for mounting one of an emitter and a sensor to the housing and one of the emitter and the sensor to the object, wherein mounting includes positioning the emitter and sensor such that radiation generated by the emitter falls on the sensor when the object is in a particular position and to a lesser extent otherwise;

means for generating a signal;

means for driving the emitter with the signal;

means for modifying the signal;

means for monitoring the sensor for a modified version of the signal; and
means for generating an alarm if the modified version of the signal is not
detected.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein installing a tamper detection controller
further includes running an existing gaming machine signal through the tamper
detection controller.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises generating
an alarm if the existing gaming machine signal is not detected.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein modifying includes inverting the signal.